

Message Text

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SECDEF FOR DDR&E (DR. FOSTER)

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SUBJ: SUGGESTIONS FOR TEXT OF DR. FOSTER'S COMMENTS TO THE
FORTHCOMING CNAD MEETING, RELATING TO THE DEPARTURE THIS SUMMER
OF MR. A. TYLER PORT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DEFENSE
SUPPORT.

BEGIN TEXT:

MR. A. TYLER PORT ARRIVED AT NATO AT THE END OF 1967, AND
IS DEPARTING IN JULY 1973. HE ATTENDED THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF
NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS (CNAD) IN NOVEMBER 1967, AT WHICH
TIME HE WAS INTRODUCED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL ROBERTS.
SINCE THEN, HE HAS CHAIRED ALL OF THE CNAD MEETINGS. THIS MEETING
IN MARCH WILL BE NUMBER ELEVEN.

HE ALSO CHAIRED THE EXPLORATORY CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE
OF INDUSTRIALISTS IN MAY 1968, AND THE EXPLORATORY CONFERENCE
ON PRODUCTION AND LOGISTICS IN JUNE 1972. HE WAS SINGULARLY
RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING THE EXPLORATORY CONFERENCE ON PRODUCTION
AND LOGISTICS OFF THE GROUND. IN ADDITION, HE HAS CHAIRED
NUMERABLE MEETINGS OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS REPRESENTATIVES
(NADREP), BESIDES SPECIAL MEETINGS, FROM TIME TO TIME. AS RESULT
OF THIS VAST EXPERIENCE AND OUTSTANDING TALENTS, HE HAS PROBABLY
BECOME ONE OF NATO'S MOST EXPERIENCED CHAIRMEN.

DURING HIS TENURE, THE NATO INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY GROUP
(NIAG) WAS CREATED AND ITS FIRST PLENARY SESSION TOOK PLACE
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IN EARLY 1969. HIS GUIDANCE HAS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO NIAG'S
SUCCESS. IN ADDITION, HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FORMING THE SPECIAL

FUND FOR COOPERATIVE PLANNING WHICH HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL VENTURE IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

THESE ARE SOME OF HIS SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS; BUT THROUGHOUT HIS ENTIRE TIME AT NATO, HE HAS SOUGHT TO PROMOTE NEW METHODS AND PROCEDURES FOR INCREASING COOPERATION IN NATO RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION.

HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS FROM COUNTRIES AND READY TO INTERPRET THEIR WISHES IN THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY.

HIS INTEREST AND SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE IN LOGISTICS, FROM HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, HAS BEEN INVALUABLE IN PROMOTING MORE INTEREST IN THIS RATHER NEGLECTED SIDE OF NATO COOPERATION.

AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT, HE HAS BEEN NOT ONLY BUSY IN THIS KIND OF BUSINESS BUT HAS HAD, AMONG OTHERS, RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM AND, OF COURSE, HAS DIRECTED A STAFF OF MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE.

HIS PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE IN FACE OF VERY SLOW PROGRESS IN CERTAIN FIELDS HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING.

DR. TROMP, WHO HAS JUST RELINQUISHED HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF NIAG, CHARACTERIZED MR. PORT AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE: HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TOWER OF STRENGTH AND A PILLAR OF WISDOM. EVEN IN DARKEST MOMENTS, HE COULD SEE THE LIGHT COMING OVER THE HORIZON. UNQUOTE.

I WOULD CERTAINLY AGREE WITH DR. TROMP'S CHARACTERIZATION.
END TEXT. RUMSFELD

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